Fall Teacher Grants

EPAK made 183 educator grants and 45 New Teacher Grants, putting $106,825 and $11,250, respectively, directly into classrooms.

“Nothing compares to the look on my students faces when they open a giant Amazon box of books they have been asking for.”

Maricela Montoy-Wilson, Principal of East Palo Alto Charter School

Executive Update

It’s an honor to become EPAK President after serving on the board for three years. Volunteering has been part of my life for decades, and I’ve worked on a wide range of non-profit boards, but education is especially close to my heart. I’ve long been drawn to EPAK’s proposition. Our grants – used by teachers in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park to help the students who need it the most, where and when they need it the most – are rare in the direct and immediate impact they have on students.

As incoming EPAK President, I’d like to thank Lee Dinneen for her dedication and bold leadership. Lee joined EPAK in 2009 and served as President for four years. Lee’s passion for EPAK made it a stronger, more impactful organization. Under Lee’s leadership, EPAK boosted annual fundraising by $100,000, allowing teacher grants to be $100 larger per grant. Meanwhile, grant eligibility was widened to include tinkers, librarians and PE teachers.

Our heartfelt thanks and best wishes go out to Lee as she takes on new challenges. We also thank departing board members, and dedicated educators, Jenn Gravem and Ann Funn for their years of service and Saul Zeveda for his contributions to the board. The deep commitment and involvement of our board is part of what makes EPAK unique. Under Lee’s leadership, we began a strategic planning process to consider how we evolve. EPAK does so much that’s right, yet we are mindfully seeking new ways to support the changing needs of teachers. In addition to supporting students, we also want to boost teachers’ job satisfaction and retention by helping them succeed in the classroom, and encouraging more of them to apply for our grants.

I look forward to updating you on EPAK progress and local impact in the months ahead.

Karen Ross, EPAK Board President

Special Award at EPAK Day

Every year, EPAK Day is a heartwarming morning of inspirational classroom tours and presentations by promising young students. EPAK Day 2018, held at East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS), was a joyous event with a nice surprise. Ronda White, President of the Ravenswood Teacher’s Association presented EPAK with the WHO award. Ronda said “Hundreds of teachers and thousands of students are benefitting from EPAK grants” and that they “are so honored and privileged to have EPAK working so closely with the community, the kids and the teachers.” She closed with the words:

“Every dollar you give touches a child, a teacher and a family.”
Boosting Empathy in Education Giving

In October, EPAK hosted a dinner with Ravenswood educators and Bay Area donors to deepen our understanding of how to help teachers offer, and amplify, the impact of educational enrichment in their classrooms. The event capped a year-long “Empathy Project,” led by Board member and VP of Communications, Shafi Saxena, who funded the project via a “Giving Code Experimentation and Learning Grant” from the Packard and Heising-Simons Foundations.

EPAK’s Empathy Project conducted surveys and interviews in 13 schools across the Ravenswood School District and in 2 schools in Palo Alto. Findings are captured in a 4.5 minute video which can be viewed on our Facebook page: EPAK - East Palo Alto Kids Foundation. Or, please email us for a link.

Our learnings will continue to hone EPAK’s empathy-driven approach to giving: We believe that if we want to support education, we must support teachers.

Learn more about the EPAK Model:
www.facebook.com/EastPaloAltoKidsFoundation

To help students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park schools, please make a tax-deductible donation at www.epak.org

WWW.EPAK.ORG
PO BOX 50542 PALO ALTO, CA 94303
EAST PALO ALTO FOUNDATION

GRANTING OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY CLASSROOM